ने भोपाल, ग्वालियर, इन्दौर, खजुराहो और रायपुर हवाई अड्डों के स्तरोन्नयन का कार्य आरंभ कर दिया है। जबलपुर हवाई अड्डे के स्तरोन्नयन की भी योजना बनाई जा रही है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) जी, नहीं।

(ड) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

External Indebtedness

118. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's total external indebtedness on November 15, 1990 in, rupees as well as in dollars;

(b) the total of such indebtedness on November 15, 1995 again both in rupees and dollars; and

(c) the factors underlying the change in the magnitude of external indebtedness in the course of these five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) The total debt stock outstanding at the end of the year 1990-91 was US $ 83959 million (Rs. 163311 crores).

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Achievements of BIFR

119. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever made an assessment of the achievements of BIFR in removing sickness in industries in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proceedings of the seminar on 'Industrial Development Review of India' organised by Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi held in July, 1995 wherein the functioning and efficiency of BIFR was severely criticised; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that references received under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) arc dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Act. BIFR has also streamlined its procedures, reduced the time lag in hearing and shortened the overall duration of proceedings so as to ensure expeditious disposal of references. The BIFR has further reported that 1723 references were registered with it as on 30.09.1995. The break-up of these cases is as under:

1. References registered..... 1723
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable.. 373
3. Rehabilitation schemes approved/ sanction..... 485
4. Winding up recommended..... 392
5. Others (three references from Courts and in thirteen networth turned positive and dropped)..... 16
6. Decisions taken (Total of 2 to 5)..... 1266
7. Pending at various stages..... 457

BIFR has reported that the time taken for disposal of cases is coming down. While the average time taken for disposal of cases registered with BIFR during 1987 to 1991 was 739 days, the average time taken for disposal of cases registered during 1992 and 1993 was 457 days and 196 days respectively. For the year 1994, the average time taken for cases already disposed of was 105 days.

(c) and (d) A seminar on Industrial Development Review of India was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 18, 1995 in cooperation with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to mark the release of the book entitled 'India—Industrial Development Review'. Certain observations were made during the course of the seminar on various issues relating to industrial development including functioning of BIFR.

Petition by Tour Operators and Travel Agents

120. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading tour operators and travel agents have presented a petition to Government seeking initiation of administration tariffs for the domestic hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in value of Indian Rupee

121. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the parity of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the dollar and other currencies of the world are vitiated recently;

(b) whether Government have analysed the whole spectrum in this regard, if so, with what results; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the RBI did not play an active part in this episode, if so, whether Government propose to review the role of the RBI in such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) to (c) The external value of the rupee, in relation to the US dollar and some other major currencies, came under downward pressure during the recent months. While the rupee-dollar rate has remained stable since August 1993, the inflation differentials between India and abroad warranted an adjustment of the rupee exchange rate in nominal terms. When the extent of adjustment by the market was considered excessive, the Reserve Bank of India intervened in the foreign exchange market. As a consequence, the rupee-dollar rate has remained below Rs. 35 per US dollar since the beginning of November 1995. The timing and extent of intervention by the Reserve Bank of India is considered appropriate and adequate.

Proposal to hand over loss making airports to private parties

122. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country at present;

(b) how many of these are making profits;

(c) location of loss making airports in the country;

(d) whether there is a proposal to hand over loss making airports to States and private parties; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Airports